

Sister Elizabeth Weiman, C.PP.S.

Born: August 29, 1921

Professed: August 10, 1941

Entered into Life: May 6, 2016

Verse on her memorial card:

“I will be with you always to the end of time.”

(Matthew 28:20b)



May 9, 2016

Dear Sisters,

Sr. Elizabeth Weiman (Sr. Mary Edward) loved surprises and parties. She surprised all of us by gliding peacefully into heaven on May 6, 2016, joining her parents Herman and Bertha, her sister Ruth and brother William. Sr. Elizabeth had a good dinner the night before, was chatting with Sr. Joanne Reuter and making sure her dress for the Jubilee celebration included her red belt for the feast of Pentecost. Sr. Elizabeth was to celebrate her seventy-fifth Jubilee as a Sister of the Most Precious Blood on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. No doubt Sr. Elizabeth is celebrating with family, friends and her community classmates in heaven.

Sr. Elizabeth was born Elizabeth Barbara on August 29, 1921, in Quincy, Illinois, and baptized at St. John the Baptist Church. She referred to her growing up as being part of a *“cradle Catholic home and living in a town where 60% of the children attended parochial school, Catholic high school and college.”*

Sr. Elizabeth was the oldest of seven children and after graduating from high school entered the postulancy in O’Fallon and made profession of vows in 1941. She attended St. Louis University where she received a bachelor of science in history and a master of arts in education from St. John College in Cleveland, Ohio. She loved all of her ministries in education and being with students and faculty.

Education was a high value for Sr. Elizabeth. She taught for twenty-seven years at the following elementary schools: St. Monica in Creve Coeur, Holy Innocents and Holy Family in St. Louis, St. George in Affton and Sacred Heart in Florissant. She was an elementary principal for fifteen years at: St. George, Affton; Most Precious Blood, Lemay; and St. Peter’s in Quincy, Illinois. Sr. Elizabeth wrote in 1976, *“Today education is concerned with more than acquiring a set ‘product’; it is concerned with the many factors that influence the process of learning. It is concerned with the child’s readiness to learn, the exposure to movies, magazines, TV...(the child’s) acquaintance with libraries, museums, monuments; travel to distant places...involvement with people of various races and cultures...The child’s relationships with people, environment and situations are extremely significant, but more important are interactions with teachers and parent.”* A timely message for us today.

Donna Kwasinski, a longtime friend of Sr. “Liz,” shared that she was always full of *“pep, vim and vigor and a wonderful principal who always was ready to give compliments, suggestions and help to the teachers.”* Donna also commented on Sr. Liz and her adventurous spirit in trying new things such as swimming and horseback riding.

In the 1980’s Sr. Elizabeth became the President of St. Mary’s Junior College where she had been a student so many years before. She said: *“I’m thrilled to be back in O’Fallon and at St. Mary’s; it’s like coming home.”* For six years Sr. Elizabeth moved the college into the future encouraging an environment of

respect, reverence and education which emphasized truth, beauty and human dignity. She participated in the O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce, was on the Advisory Board of Higher Education and on the Advisory Board for the Mid Rivers Home and Health Care Center, and belonged to the Business and Professional Women's Association.

Moving from O'Fallon to Kentucky, Sr. Elizabeth became a pastoral minister and director of religious education at Holy Family Church, working with religion teachers, preparing liturgies, prayer groups and the RCIA program. She wrote: *"Wherever we go, we see God's presence showing in the eyes and works of the people."*

Sr. Elizabeth ministered in Ashland, Kentucky, a town in northeastern Kentucky situated on the Ohio River that borders both Ohio and West Virginia. *"The industries are steel and oil, the town has two hospitals, one Catholic parish, and many other churches of different denominations but no bars!"* Sr. Elizabeth answered many needs both spiritual and physical. The poverty of the people and growing unemployment with the closing of plants, wore on the people and those who ministered with them.

Sr. Elizabeth returned to O'Fallon to volunteer her talents in the Motherhouse community. She also volunteered at Assumption Parish companioning parents preparing for infant baptisms, teaching in the Returning Catholics Program, and leading faith communities. She shared prayer with the Sisters in skilled care and witnessed to a love of God and scriptures in all she did.

Sr. Elizabeth enjoyed a special prayer time after breakfast each morning where she would delight in the scriptures and journal her thoughts and prayers. Each journal entry would begin with: *"Blessed Are You, Lord God."* Her spirituality shines through in the songs and scripture readings that she chose for her funeral liturgy, her celebration of new Life. The first reading is John's letter that speaks of God's love: *"My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God...this is the love I mean, not our love for God but God's love for us."* (1 John 4)

A life-long learner, Sr. Elizabeth was reading about the presidential candidates the morning before she died. She was an avid reader and kept up with world, national, local political and church issues.

Sr. Elizabeth's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2016, and her wake will be from 3:30 - 8:00 p.m., with a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. Her wake will continue on Friday, May 13, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel.

Sr. Elizabeth, in the quote from Matthew's gospel that is printed on her memorial card, sends a message to each of us who loved her and will miss her presence: *"I will be with you to the end of time."* I believe she wants us to know that she is with us always and that God will be with us till the end of time. That is a gracious and comforting promise. Thank you, Sr. Liz, Sr. Elizabeth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Fran".

Sr. Fran